

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (Currently amended). A freeze-dried composition in the form of a shaped body, comprising a rapidly soluble, open matrix of a carbohydrate polymer.

2 (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate polymer is hydroxyethyl starch.

3 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate polymer is pullulan.

4 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, which additionally comprises at least one excipient.

5 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, which additionally comprises a low molecular weight carbohydrate.

6 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, which additionally comprises a component selected from colouring agents and flavouring agents.

7 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, which additionally comprises a therapeutic agent.

8 (Previously presented). The composition according to claim 1, in the shape of a tablet.

9 (Currently amended). The composition according to claim 1, obtainable by the removal of solvent from freeze-drying a solution containing the carbohydrate polymer and any other component(s), the solution being provided as a single dosage aliquot in a mould corresponding to the desired shape.

10 (Cancelled).

11 (Currently amended). [[A]] The composition, according to claim 3, in the form of a shaped body that is rapidly soluble in water, comprising a therapeutic agent and, as a vehicle, an open matrix of pullulan.

12 (New). A composition, in the form of a shaped body, comprising a rapidly soluble open matrix of a carbohydrate polymer, wherein the carbohydrate polymer is pullulan.

13 (New). A composition in the form of a shaped body, comprising a rapidly soluble, open matrix of a carbohydrate polymer, which additionally comprises a therapeutic agent.

14 (New). A process of producing a freeze-dried composition in the form of a shaped body, comprising a rapidly soluble, open matrix of a carbohydrate polymer wherein said process comprises freeze-drying a solution containing the carbohydrate polymer and any other component(s), the solution being provided as a single dosage aliquot in a mould corresponding to the desired shape.